

For Immediate Release  
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## BART Strike Likely to Dirty the Air

A BART strike next week will not only spell inconvenience for 320,000 BART riders, it will also cause more pollution emissions in the Bay Area. If only half of BART's riders turn to their cars in the wake of a transit strike, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District estimates that 7 to 14 additional tons of reactive organics and NOx – the two ingredients of summertime ozone - will be released into the air each day. The Air District also estimates that an additional 28 to 56 tons of carbon monoxide will be added to the pollution load daily.

"We're very concerned about the impact that a BART strike could have on air quality," said Ellen Garvey, the Air District's Executive Officer. "This summer the Bay Area has been fortunate to have cooler weather which has led, thus far, to only one excess of the federal one-hour health standard for ground-level ozone," Garvey said. Garvey cautioned, however, that the Bay Area has experienced late summer heat waves for the past several years.

A September heat wave coupled with a BART strike could add up to high pollution days. The Air District is urging residents to get prepared **now** for a possible strike on Wednesday by arranging carpools with co-workers or friends, riding the bus, taking the ferry or telecommuting.

The Air District is also reminding all residents to get prepared for a potential September heat wave. "Have your Spare the Air plan in place now," said Terry Lee, Air District spokesperson. "Find out how to get from your home to work on transit or in a carpool," Lee said.

RIDES for Bay Area commuters offers a free carpool matching service by calling 1 (800) 755-7665. In addition, transit schedules are available on the web at [www.transitinfo.org](http://www.transitinfo.org) or by calling 817-1717 from any Bay Area location.